

**Media release**

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**Launch of BioSingapore – Developing the nation’s bioscience community**

*12 October 2004, Singapore* – BioSingapore, a trade organisation representing local biosciences enterprises, was launched today at the Biomedical Asia 2004, Asia’s premier bioscience conference. BioSingapore aims to encourage and foster Singapore’s bioscience industry, thereby boosting economic growth. In this manner, the organisation will complement initiatives by the Singapore government, which aim to develop the nation’s biomedical sciences industry.

“The launch of BioSingapore will help to further strengthen the biomedical sciences industry here, which has already been identified as a key pillar of Singapore’s economy. The shaping of this sector will thrive with open and constant interaction between industry and government, and I believe that BioSingapore is the ideal organisation to facilitate this process. Both EDB and A\*STAR look forward to working with BioSingapore to create a vibrant and thriving biomedical sciences industry”, said Mr. Philip Yeo, Chairman Agency of Science Technology and Research (A\*STAR) and Co-chairman Economic Development Board (EDB), who was the Guest-of-Honour at the BioSingapore launch.

"With the growth of the Singapore bioscience industry, it becomes clear that this industry needs a voice. This is what BioSingapore aims to be. BioSingapore will represent the industry, acting as a platform of communication for the bioscience sector in Singapore," said Mr. Steven Fang, Chairman of BioSingapore. Mr. Fang is also the CEO of CordLife Pte Ltd, a leading tissue bank in Singapore and a subsidiary of Cygenics, an ASX listed stem cell biotechnology and

immunotherapy company. “In short, BioSingapore will pool the resources and expertise of its members, to create a thriving business environment for rapid growth of the local bioscience industry,” he continued.

BioSingapore is founded by local companies and represents business enterprises and supporting groups involved with Singapore’s biosciences industry. A number of activities and initiatives will be organised to provide members with the necessary business tools and skills needed to reach their full potential.

The first activity to be organised is the inaugural discussion and networking session in a series of monthly discussions that plan to deal with some of the specific issues facing the biosciences industry in Singapore. The initial topic will be in the area of Intellectual Property. This will deal with the need for patent protection in the area of drug discovery, and cover typical obstacles that companies face. Held on 22 October 2004, the session will feature Dr. Stephanie Pilkington, from Eric Potter Clarkson, a premier biotech law firm in the U.K. The second session to be held in November will discuss some of the difficulties in marrying science with business and it is proposed that the discussion be lead by Prof. Sir David Lane, the Executive Director of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology and founder of Cyclacel, a biopharmaceutical company based in Dundee.

Other promotional activities organised by BioSingapore include:

- Workshops on a series of “best practice” topics, ranging from the use of intellectual property to developing business plans and financing propositions;
- Initiating discussion with financing companies, to promote funding;
- Organising talks with prominent speakers on different aspects of the bioscience industry;

- Developing networking opportunities and acting as a central liaison point for foreign companies and organisations interested in partnerships in Singapore; and
- Promoting activities and opportunities of Singapore bioscience companies.

These activities will be rolled out during the year.

BioSingapore will receive membership fees from its members, which are divided into Founding members, Corporate members, Ordinary members and Associate members. In addition, BioSingapore has also received a grant from the Economic Development Board. For a list of BioSingapore members, see Annex A.

By pooling and maximising resources available, BioSingapore will act as a central organisation to create a thriving business environment for the growth of the local bioscience industry. BioSingapore will focus on supporting bioscience enterprises by stimulating investment, liaising with other bio-industry organisations, facilitating local and international collaborations and educating the local community.

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## **Annex A**

BioSingapore has a total of 14 members, consisting of 8 Founding members and 6 Corporate members. These are:

Founding members – open only to biotechnology companies in Singapore

- A-Bio Pharma Pte Ltd
- Biomin Laboratory Singapore Pte Ltd
- Biotech Research Ventures Pte Ltd
- CordLife Pte Ltd
- iDNA Biotechnology Pte Ltd
- MediLynk Pte Ltd
- Rocheby Biomed Singapore Pte Ltd
- Serono Singapore Pte Ltd

Corporate members – open to companies or organisations registered in Singapore

- Affymetrix Pte Ltd
- Alban Tay Mahtani & de Silva
- Ella Cheong Spruson & Ferguson (Singapore) Pte Ltd
- Lloyd Wise
- Maida Vale Consulting Pte Ltd
- S\*BIO Pte Ltd

In addition, BioSingapore has opened membership to Ordinary members, who are individual residents in Singapore and Associate members, which is for non-resident individuals or companies not registered in Singapore, with an interest in Singapore's bioscience industry.